

Received & Inspected

Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker

MAY 24 2010

FCC Mail Room

Federal
Communications
Commission
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners Copps, McDowell, Clyburn, and Baker,

Video Relay Service allows deaf individuals to communicate by phone in American Sign Language. This life-altering broadband service is a vital link that connects deaf people to the hearing community.

Ensuring that deaf individuals have access to VRS and encouraging improvements in VRS should be a high priority for you as Chairman and Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission. The Americans with Disabilities Act requires the FCC to make available to all deaf individuals nationwide "functionally equivalent" communications.

You will soon determine the future of VRS. When you set the VRS rate, you will determine whether America makes progress toward the statutory goals of functional equivalence, nationwide access, and inclusion – or force deaf users to revert to TTY communications. And, you will determine whether VRS fulfills its potential to drive broadband adoption by the deaf, even in the face of disproportionate poverty, disenfranchisement, and isolation.

I was deeply disturbed to see the Commission's recent Public Notice on VRS rates. These proposals will put VRS providers out of business and mean an end to VRS.

You should be increasing the availability and use of VRS, not cutting back. You should adopt a rate that encourages continuing improvements in VRS technology. Recent developments in VRS are a good example of how the service can be improved, such as enhanced 911 services, 10-digit numbering, a larger and better-trained pool of interpreters, and better videophones with an array of enhanced features. Monthly payments for broadband are a big expense for many deaf people, and instead of trying to cut back on VRS, you should be exploring ways to make VRS over broadband more affordable to deaf individuals.

Progress toward functional equivalence will be destroyed if the FCC does not encourage VRS providers to improve VRS and make it more widely available. VRS is a recent and dramatic advancement that benefits those who are deaf, but so much more can be done. It would be tragic if the FCC were to destroy this broadband service that is so vital to the deaf.

I urge you to establish a fair and predictable rate for VRS that will encourage VRS providers to invest in improving VRS and reaching more deaf individuals. The law requires it and it is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Signature Jo Ann Burger Date May 14, 10

Name Jo Ann Burger
Address 635 Main St
City Fairfax State Iowa ZIP 52228
Email _____

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Sincerely,

Signature ALLAN LORENC Date 5-14-10

Name ALLAN LORENC

Address P O BOX 85

City WALFORD State IA ZIP 52351

Email _____

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Sincerely,

Signature Pamela A. Kostle Date 5/14/10

Name Pamela A. Kostle
Address PO Box 111 215 0 Ave W
City Walford State IA ZIP 52357
Email jkostle@earthlink.net

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Sincerely,

Signature Dianne Flaherty Date 5/14/10

Name Dianne Flaherty

Address 10007 Wright Bros Blvd.

City Fairfax State Iowa ZIP 52228

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Signature Jim Flaherty Date 5-14-10

Name Jim Flaherty

Address 10007 Wright Brothers Blvd.

City Fairfax State Iowa ZIP 52228

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Sincerely,

Signature Janice Tomlinson Date 5-14-10

Name JANICE TOMLINSON

Address 11580 W. DIXIE SHORES DR.

City CRYSTAL RIVER State FL ZIP 34429

Email roster@earthlink.net

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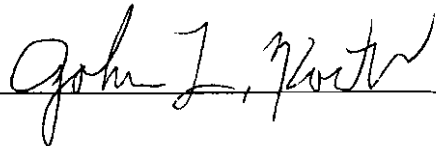
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Signature



Date

5/14/10

Name

John K. Kastle

Address

PO Box 111 215-C Ave W

City

Walford

State

IA

ZIP

52357

Email

j.kastle@earthlink.net

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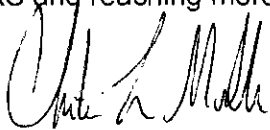
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Sincerely,

Signature



Date

05-14-10

Name

Christine L. Miller

Address

1053 Johnson Town Road N.W.

City

Amana

State

IA

ZIP

52203

Email

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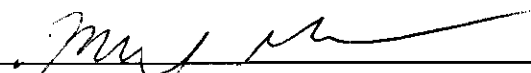
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Signature  Date 5-14-10

Name Michael J. Graesser

Address Box 153

City Amman State IA ZIP 52203

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Signature Greg S. Young Date 5-14-10

Name Greg Young

Address PO Box 461

City Wichita State IA ZIP 672351

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Sincerely,

Signature  Date 5-14-10

Name DWAYNE SCHINUCK

Address 505 119th St

City Fairfax State Tx ZIP 52228

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Signature

Date 5-14-10

Name

Terry Schmecker

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Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker

Received & Inspected

MAY 24 2010

FCC Mail Room

Federal
Communications
Commission
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners Copps, McDowell, Clyburn, and Baker,

Video Relay Service allows deaf individuals to communicate by phone in American Sign Language. This life-altering broadband service is a vital link that connects deaf people to the hearing community.

Ensuring that deaf individuals have access to VRS and encouraging improvements in VRS should be a high priority for you as Chairman and Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission. The Americans with Disabilities Act requires the FCC to make available to all deaf individuals nationwide "functionally equivalent" communications.

You will soon determine the future of VRS. When you set the VRS rate, you will determine whether America makes progress toward the statutory goals of functional equivalence, nationwide access, and inclusion – or force deaf users to revert to TTY communications. And, you will determine whether VRS fulfills its potential to drive broadband adoption by the deaf, even in the face of disproportionate poverty, disenfranchisement, and isolation.

I was deeply disturbed to see the Commission's recent Public Notice on VRS rates. These proposals will put VRS providers out of business and mean an end to VRS.

You should be increasing the availability and use of VRS, not cutting back. You should adopt a rate that encourages continuing improvements in VRS technology. Recent developments in VRS are a good example of how the service can be improved, such as enhanced 911 services, 10-digit numbering, a larger and better-trained pool of interpreters, and better videophones with an array of enhanced features. Monthly payments for broadband are a big expense for many deaf people, and instead of trying to cut back on VRS, you should be exploring ways to make VRS over broadband more affordable to deaf individuals.

Progress toward functional equivalence will be destroyed if the FCC does not encourage VRS providers to improve VRS and make it more widely available. VRS is a recent and dramatic advancement that benefits those who are deaf, but so much more can be done. It would be tragic if the FCC were to destroy this broadband service that is so vital to the deaf.

I urge you to establish a fair and predictable rate for VRS that will encourage VRS providers to invest in improving VRS and reaching more deaf individuals. The law requires it and it is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Signature



Date

5/14/2010

Name

Tim Glasgow

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52301

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Sincerely,

Signature

David R. Friedman

Date

May 14, 10

Name

David R. Friedman

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434 Riverview Rd

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Iowa

ZIP

52052

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Sincerely,

Signature

Heidi Hess

Date

May 14, 10

Name

Heidi Hess

Address

450 A Avenue NE

City

Wauford

State

IA

ZIP

52351

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Sincerely,

Signature Michael C. Bruggeman Date 5/14/10

Name MICHAEL C. BRUGGEMAN

Address P.O. Box 84

City WALFORD State IA ZIP 52351

Email _____

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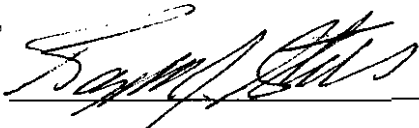
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Sincerely,

Signature



Date

5-14-10

Name

Raphael J. Stallman

Address

1155 Y Ave.

City

Amman

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Sincerely,

Signature

Gary W. Frame

Date

5/14/10

Name

GARY FRAME

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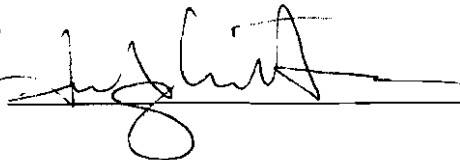
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Sincerely,

Signature



Date

5-14-10

Name

Andrew Joseph Winter

Address

310 3rd Street North

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Waldorf

State

IA

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52351

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Sincerely,

Signature Cherie Wheeler Date 5-14-10

Name Cherie Wheeler

Address 520 12th St.

City Marion State IN ZIP 52302

Email _____

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Sincerely,

Signature Paul Strauss Date 5/14/10

Name PAUL STRAUSS

Address 2900 SUE BLANE NW

City Cedar Rapids State IA ZIP 52405

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Sincerely,

Signature Karen Casey Date 5-14-10

Name Karen Casey

Address 206 Northgate

City Shellsburg State IA ZIP 52332

Email _____

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Signature



Date

5-14-10

Name

MIKE CRAWFORD

Address

1226 W AVE.

City

AMESIA

State

IOWA

ZIP

52203

Email

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You should be increasing the availability and use of VRS, not cutting back. You should adopt a rate that encourages continuing improvements in VRS technology. Recent developments in VRS are a good example of how the service can be improved, such as enhanced 911 services, 10-digit numbering, a larger and better-trained pool of interpreters, and better videophones with an array of enhanced features. Monthly payments for broadband are a big expense for many deaf people, and instead of trying to cut back on VRS, you should be exploring ways to make VRS over broadband more affordable to deaf individuals.

Progress toward functional equivalence will be destroyed if the FCC does not encourage VRS providers to improve VRS and make it more widely available. VRS is a recent and dramatic advancement that benefits those who are deaf, but so much more can be done. It would be tragic if the FCC were to destroy this broadband service that is so vital to the deaf.

I urge you to establish a fair and predictable rate for VRS that will encourage VRS providers to invest in improving VRS and reaching more deaf individuals. The law requires it and it is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Signature

Michelle Nunemaker

Date

May 15 - 10

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